
The Chinese Revolution by Arthur Judson Brown

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dents in the formation of the confederacy. The same political dangers transferred from one geographical environment to another give rise to similar means of self-protection among the same people—a fact which seems to make against rather than for the writer's contention. We have seen an attempt by a very respectable writer to show that the art of Pompeii and Herculaneum was due to the beauty of the surrounding region, but the view (quoted with implied approval) that "the absence of artistic and poetic development in Switzerland and the Alpine lands" is to be ascribed "to the overwhelming aspect of nature there, its majestic sublimity which paralyses the mind" (p.19–20), is to us a new one that outrivals its predecessors. To be sure "the facts are incontestable," but just now we are concerned with the interpretation of those facts, and in such a case a multitude of illustrations does not support one's contention any more than a single instance. Ten thousand instances in which long noses and red hair are associated with uprightness and zeal do not support a contention that a combination of long noses and red hair has a good influence upon character, any more than a single instance supports it. The sum total of influences must be taken into consideration before the really efficient ones can be singled out and emphasized; it is easy to confuse chance and condition with cause.

The impression one gets after reading through these more than six hundred pages is that they do not assist very materially in a solution of the problems with which they deal. Facts of rather heterogeneous ancestry and of more or less arbitrary classification are offered us in support of a given thesis, but scarcely ever do we get the facts which offset them, and which are indispensable in giving to any piece of evidence its true value. An intensive study of a given limited region or regions in which there was this attempt to determine the relative influence of geographic environment as compared with that of social traditions and prevailing religious convictions or political organization, for example, would, we venture to suggest, have had more value, in just that degree to which it took us nearer to the heart of the problem.

W. D. WALLIS.

The Chinese Revolution. By ARTHUR JUDSON BROWN, D.D.
Student Volunteer Movement. New York, 1912. Pp. 217.

To one who wishes an interesting, well-written yet reliable account of the Chinese revolution, this book is highly recommended. While it is based upon the author's earlier work, *New Forces in Old China*, the developments of the past few years and

the origin and early history of the revolution are fully described. Besides the information gained during two recent trips of investigation to China, Dr. Brown makes good use of many quotations from Chinese newspapers and from letters of resident missionaries. The analysis of the causes of the revolution is especially good. As might be expected from the author's position as secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, the work of the Christian church is emphasized—possibly unduly in making it the most potent influence in the political regeneration of China. The important part, however, played by the missionaries in the revolution itself is well described. Their compounds have been asylums of refuge for both imperialists and revolutionists; they have aided in arranging terms of truce and capitulation, and have carried on most of the Red Cross work on the battle fields.

G. H. B.

Flower o' the Peach. By PERCEVAL GIBBON. New York: The Century Company, 1911. Pp. 394.

The race problem in the United States has been a favorite theme for novel and drama from the days of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to the present. This story, however, presents the race problem in South Africa; and is worth reading by anyone who wishes an introduction to the passion, prejudice and hateful injustice engendered there by the conflict of color, language and race.

To do away with the century-long bitterness between Boer and Englishman would be enough of a task for any country. At present the administration of South Africa is finding it almost impossible to reconcile the claims of Dutch and English to absolute equality in the government and the schools. But this antagonism will eventually disappear, just as the French-English antagonism in Canada has largely disappeared. The great race question relates to the native. It is similar in many respects to the negro problem in the United States, but is far more difficult of solution. There is the same insistence, by the whites, upon keeping the native, educated and uneducated alike, in a position of definite inferiority and upon ostracising any white who treats a native with even decent social respect. In some of the Transvaal cities, natives are now put out of the street cars and kicked off from the sidewalks. There, as here in the South, "the negro has no rights which the white man is bound to respect." But in the United States the whites outnumber the negroes, and can easily control them in any resort to physical force. In South